ZODIAC

News Service 950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103 (415) 956-3555

Contacts: Jon Newhall Scott Farley Marlene Edmunds Jim Blodgett

DECEMBER 9, 1974

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(ZNS) ASSASSINATION RESEARCHER HAROLD WEISBERG STATES THAT SENATOR RICHARD RUSSELL -- ONE OF THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION -- ALWAYS BELIEVED THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY BEHIND THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY.

WEISBERG, IN HIS LATEST BOOK WHITEWASH IV, REPORTS HE HELD A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR RUSSELL SHORTLY BEFORE THE SENATOR DIED IN 1970.

AT THAT TIME, ACCORDING TO WEISBERG, RUSSELL STATED HE BELIEVED THAT MORE THAN ONE ASSASSIN WAS INVOLVED IN J.F.K.'S MURDER.

WEISBERG QUOTES RUSSELL AS SAYING THAT HE HAD APPEALED TO CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, TO INCLUDE IN THE COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT (QUOTE) "A LITTLE FOOTNOTE" SAYING THAT SENATOR RUSSELL DISAGREED WITH THE "LONE ASSASSIN" CONCLUSION.

WARREN, ACCORDING TO WEISBERG'S ACCOUNT, REFUSED TO DO SO. WEISBERG ADDS THAT SENATOR RUSSELL, IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF THE COMMISSION IN SEPTEMBER OF 1964, VOICED HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY, BELIEVING THAT THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THAT MEETING WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO HISTORY THAT HE SUSPECTED CONSPIRATORS WERE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION.

HOWEVER, RUSSELL WAS LATER SHOWN A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING AND, ACCORDING TO WEISBERG, FOUND THAT THE TRANSCRIPT HAD BEEN CHANGED. THE TRANSCRIPT HAD BEEN ALTERED, WEISBERG STATES, TO DELETE ALL OF RUSSELL'S REMARKS ABOUT A POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY.

ACCORDING TO WEISBERG, WHEN SENATOR RUSSELL LEARNED OF THIS ALLEGED ALTERATION, HE SEVERED HIS LONG PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH LYNDON JOHNSON AND RESIGNED FROM THE SENATE MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN PROTEST -- ZODIAC

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(MORE)

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December 6, 1974

Dear Harold:

Enclosed is a story we did for the 9th from your book Whitewash IV.

I tried to call you several times today with a few minor questions. Since I douldn't reach you, I just went ahead with the story.

I hope you find it reasonably accurate and a good condensation of what Senator Russell told you.

I'll call you sometime this coming week (but not Monday, because they're too busy). Maybe I'll call Tuesday.

Best,

Jon

Jon Newhall

12/9/74

Dear Jon,

Your letter of the 6th reports you've had trouble reaching me, says you may call tomorrow, I'll be away until evening tomorrow, so this hasty note in response and comment on your release for today.

In spirit it is faithful and accurate. In minor detail is has inaccuracies that do not address the substance. Example: there never really was a transcript of the session at which Russell was conned. My giving him the fake transcript and making a further check for him, on the possibility that both the fake and a real transcript existed, is what reached him fully. He was shocked enough at the fake. He didn't know about either the fake or the non-existence until my contact with him.

The other area of his doubt was ballistics. He did not believe one man was capable of that shooting with that rifle and he was, of course, correct.

On calling me, this is the time of the year I can give you a schedule that can save you money.

Our only regular income is my wife's. She works two days a week most of the year, full days five days a week at the Block office she manages from the first of the years until April 16. For the few remaining weeks of this year she will answer the phone if I am not home ~~Mondays and Fridays and the days~~ except during normal working hours on Fridays and Monday the 16th. (She work the other Mondays and is scheduled to work each Friday.) However, beginning the first of the year, the only time she will answer in my absence is weekends. Infrequently I am away evenings and she is not. So, during the normal working day here, beginning the first, it is safe to make a station call. Her hours vary with the volume of work, but I'm generally home by 9:30 a.m. during the tax season. I can be delayed evenings if her relief has not come on time or she has a client with whom she has to work overtime.

As I've already indicated, the station reaction to your first story was fantastic. While it translated into very few sales, I nonetheless welcome it because it provides an opportunity for reaching people if not for paying the printer and with all the disinformation that is reaching them I believe it is important for them to be spoken to rationally. The frightening reality is that responsible people have no way of discriminating.

Among the consequences of all the irrational garbage that is also so exciting, aside from misinforming the people, is the inevitability that no matter how shocking the truth is it is pale by comparison and unheeded.

When that crap passes through a sophisticated editor's hands a couple of times he automatically throws everything on the subject in the wastebasket. Thus it is entirely immaterial if a Skolnick or the entire Boston crew work for the spooks for pay or not. Nobody can do spook work more effectively.

Anyway, again thanks and again give my number if you think it will do any good for any of your clients to phone.

Meanwhile, please if there is a next time do not forget the "where" of those traditional 5 "Ws" so people can order the book. All the straight AM stations are doing that and giving the price, which accounts for most sales to date and eliminates letter-writing for the audience and for me. I get checks and a note and I send books out and it is done.

Best regards,